

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010111

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G02B26/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ G02B26/02

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2003-195191 A (Delta Electronics Inc.), 09 July, 2003 (09.07.03), Par. No. [0009]; Fig. 3 & US 2003/0099454 A1 & DE 10232405 A	1-7
X	JP 58-173702 A (Plessey Overseas Ltd.), 12 October, 1983 (12.10.83), Fig. 2 & EP 89758 A2	1-7
X	JP 60-64307 A (Fujitsu Ltd.), 12 April, 1985 (12.04.85), Fig. 3 (Family: none)	1-7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
19 October, 2004 (19.10.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
02 November, 2004 (02.11.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The matter common to inventions of claims 1-16 relates to "a variable light attenuator having a translucent member arranged in such a manner that its angle can be modified, in an optical path optically connecting the optical paths."

However, this common matter cannot be recognized as a technical feature which makes no contribution over the prior art, since it is disclosed, for example, in documents JP 2003-195191 A (Delta Electronics Incorporated) 09 July, 2003 (09.07.03), JP 58-173702 A (Pressure Overseas Limited) 12 October, 1983 (12.10.83), and JP 60-64307 A (Fujitsu Ltd.), 12 April 1985 (12.04.85).

(Continued to extra sheet)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-7

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010111

Continuation of Box No. III of continuation of first sheet (2)

"The special technical feature" of claims 8-10 relate to "inclusion of an optical transmission path consisting of at least two pairs optically connected". "The special technical feature" of claims 11-16 relates to "inclusion of a return optical part and arrangement of the translucent member between the optical transmission paths and the return optical part". There is no technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical feature. Accordingly, the inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.